



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 14 2012

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. Nicholas Germanos,
F-35A Operational Basing EIS Project Manager
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Air Force's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the F-35A Operational Basing (CEQ No. 20120098).

The Air Force proposes to beddown new F-35A aircraft at one or more locations throughout the contiguous U.S. from 2015 to 2020. The Air Force identified Hill Air Force Base and Burlington Air Guard Station as the preferred alternatives for the initial operational beddown.

EPA believes that the draft EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts and we have not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes. EPA has rated the draft EIS as LO – "Lack of Objections." A summary of EPA's rating is enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft EIS. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan E. Bromm", is positioned above the typed name.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure